

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 12-14, 16, 17, 20, 21, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner et al. (US 5,659,172).

Claims 3-4, 6-7, 9-11, 15, 18-19, and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants cancel claims 1-2, 5, 12-14, 16-17, 20-21, 23 without prejudice and amend claims 3, 6-8, 15, 18-19, and 22. New claims 24-26 are added. Support for the new and amended claims is found throughout the specification. See e.g., Figs. 1, 6 and pages 19-20. No new matter has been added.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the examiner for indicating that claims 3-4, 6-7, 9-11, 15, 18-19, and 22 contain allowable subject matter and that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. As described below, Applicants have amended these claims accordingly.

Claims 3, 7, 15, 18

Claims 3, 7, 15, and 18 are rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, it is believed that these claims are now in condition for allowance. Claim 4 depends from claim 3 and has not been changed.

Claims 6, 8

Claim 1 is canceled and dependent claim 6 is rewritten in independent form to include all of its limitations. Claim 6 is further amended to clarify that the recited sub-steps involve using "a difference image of two perspective images" instead of "a difference image and a sum image of two perspective images."

Claim 8 is changed to depend from claim 6 and is amended for clarity.

Applicants believe amended claims 6 and 8 are patentable over the cited reference based upon the additional limitations they now incorporate. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-11

The examiner objected to claims 9-11 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, Applicants note that claim 9 is an independent claim and that claims 10-11 depend from claim 9. It is therefore believed that the objection to claims 9-11 was inadvertent and that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 19, 22

Claim 16 is canceled and dependent claim 19 is rewritten in independent form to include all of its limitations. Claim 19 is further amended to clarify that the step of detecting involves "a difference image of two perspective images" instead of "a difference image and a sum image of two perspective images." Claim 21 is canceled and dependent claim 22 is rewritten in independent form to include all of its limitations. Claim 22 is amended in a similar manner as claim 19.

Applicants believe amended claims 19 and 22 are patentable over the cited reference based upon the additional limitations they now incorporate. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 19 and 22 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

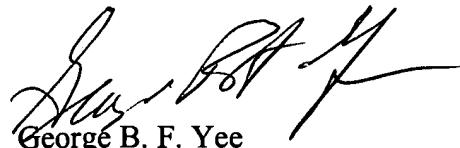
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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